B. 12. 76

Cambridge July 11th 1775

Gentlemen

According to the Generals Order of the 8th Inst. I am directed to apply to the Committee of Supplies for a Horse for each of the Commanding Officers at Roxbury Prospect Hill Winter Hill & Sewalls Point, that after an Alarm they may be able to send an Officer as a Post to Head Quarters, with an Account of their situation & the movement of the Enemy. Lt. Col. Bond requests a Horse for that purpose, whose Adjutant is the Bearer of this & to whom you may with Safety deliver him

I am Gentlemen with great respect your most Obedient Humd Servt. Wm Henshaw Adjt. Genl.

RW 259

The Honorable the Committee
of Supplies
at
Watertown

B. 12. 76

1775

Col. Wm Henshaw was one of the most active & efficient men in the interior of Massachusetts, in urging forward the Revolutionary struggle. He, with his long & intimate friend, the late Hon. Joseph Allen of Worcester, were on the County Committee, who kept up a constant and vigorous correspondence with Samuel Adams & others of the Central Committee or Committee of Safety, who directed and controlled public affairs. Col. Henshaw was the author of the system of "Minute men", which he introduced at a County Convention, and which afterward proved so useful & popular a branch of the war system. He was Foreman of the Grand Jury at the last session of the Supreme Judicial Court under the old Government, and the one who addressed the Judges on that occasion, and boldly said, among other things - "It is the opinion of this Jury, that you have no right to occupy that Bench, and we cannot sit under your instructions", which caused them to leave the Bench immediately & forever. He took the command of a regiment immediately after the news of the Lexington Battle. He was appointed, by a Council of War, Chairman of a Committee for viewing Charlestown Heights, while the army were at Cambridge, and reported the fortification of Bunker Hill, with certain other heights. He was Adjutant General of the army at Cambridge previous - to the appointment of Gen. Gates to the same office. Having a young family, he found it necessary to leave active service, early in the war. At the request of Gov. Brooks, he ~~he~~ furnished some facts in a correspondence with that gentleman, relating to Bunkerhill Battle, in 1819. The next year, 1820, in the 85th year of his age, he died as he had lived, a Christian, in great peace & full hope of a glorious immortality.

At Cambridge he was appointed as Capt of a number of men to station themselves near at Lechmere Point and attack the British when were expected to land. they did not